Announcement at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 2005

3284. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister in his speech at the last Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2005 has announced the granting of dual citizenship and participation of NRIs and PIOs in the development of aviation sector in India;

(b) if so, whether so far only NRIs have been allowed bring 100% FDI in aviation sector; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for creating discrimination for PIOs who want to use FDI to supplement their own 100% investment of India in domestic aviation sector; and

(d) whether Government will clear the discrimination between NRIs and PIOs and allow both NRIs as well as PIOs to invest 100% in aviation sector (including domestic airless) before the next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in January, 2006 and it not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. PM had announced the granting of dual citizenship (Overseas Citizenship of India) at PBD 2005. PM had talked of measures undertaken in the Civil Aviation Sector in terms of modernization of airports, opening up of skies for private airlines, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As pe existing policy, NRIs are eligible to invest upto 100% in Air Transport Service (Domestic Airlines) under the automatic route. However, Persons of Indian Origin (PsIO) have not been able to avail this facility, as the guidelines of the Ministry of Civil aviation stipulate that a scheduled/ non-scheduled air transport operator's permit can be granted only to a citizen of India or to a company/ body corporate provided, *inter alia*, that substantial ownership and effective control is vested in Indian nationals.

(d) Parity of PIO cardholders with NRIs in regard to investment in the Civil Aviation sector is under consideration of the Ministries concerned.

Communal harmony in Pravasi Bharatiya meet

3285. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: